



# BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

NYS OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION  
& HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
(518) 474-0479

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

UNIQUE SITE NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
QUAD \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIES \_\_\_\_\_  
NEG. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR NAME: Cynthia Howk DATE: Dec., 1994

YOUR ADDRESS: 133 S. Fitzhugh St.  
Rochester, NY 14608 TELEPHONE: 546-7029

ORGANIZATION (if any): The Landmark Society of Western New York, Inc.

## IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME(S): Lowden House  
2. COUNTY: Monroe TOWN/CITY: Greece VILLAGE: ---  
3. STREET LOCATION: 616 Long Pond Road  
4. OWNERSHIP: a. public ☐ b. private ☒  
5. PRESENT OWNER: Mr. & Mrs. Harris Lowden ADDRESS: (same) Rochester, NY 14612  
6. USE: Original: farm/residence Present: residence  
7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes ☒ No ☐  
Interior accessible: Explain private residence

## DESCRIPTION

8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard ☒ b. stone ☐ c. brick ☐ d. board and batten ☐  
e. cobblestone ☐ f. shingles ☒ g. stucco ☐ other: \_\_\_\_\_  
Roof = asphalt shingles Foundation = pargeted.  
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: a. wood frame with interlocking joints ☐  
(if known) b. wood frame with light members ☒  
c. masonry load bearing walls ☐  
d. metal (explain) \_\_\_\_\_  
e. other \_\_\_\_\_  
10. CONDITION: a. excellent ☐ b. good ☐ c. fair ☒ d. deteriorated ☐  
11. INTEGRITY: a. original site ☒ b. moved ☐ if so, when? \_\_\_\_\_  
c. list major alterations and dates (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

(see continuation sheet)

12. PHOTO:

13. MAP:

"This is a house that's easy to like; it's more 'authentic' and not so 'fixed-up.' A fairly simple house with not much adornment to it. It's a big house on a big site. It's a 'green plus.' " P.Malo.

COLOR CODE

Green plus

+



14. THREATS TO BUILDING: a. none known ☐ b. zoning ☐ c. roads ☐  
d. developers ☒ e. deterioration ☐  
f. other: \_\_\_\_\_
15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY:  
a. barn ☐ b. carriage house ☐ c. garage ☒  
d. privy ☐ e. shed ☒ f. greenhouse ☐  
g. shop ☐ h. gardens ☐  
i. landscape features deciduous & coniferous trees/shrubs  
j. other: fruit orchard along S. side of site.
16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING (check more than one if necessary):  
a. open land ☒ b. woodland ☐  
c. scattered buildings ☒  
d. densely built-up ☐ e. commercial ☐  
f. industrial ☐ g. residential ☒  
h. other: Gary Beikirch Town Park across the street to the west.
17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:  
(Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)

(see continuation sheet)

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):

(see continuation sheet)

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: c. 1900 (per owner)

ARCHITECT: Charles Vercolon (per owner)

BUILDER: not determined

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

(see continuation sheet)

21. SOURCES: (see continuation sheet)

22. THEME: agricultural: former farm residence & outbuildings.

11c.

The front porch has been enclosed (c. 1940s-50s).

Wrought iron railings on front porch are c. 1960s-70s addition.

House enlarged c. 1926; the front was extended outward (west), creating a larger living room (fireplace added), additional bedrooms, etc.

At the northeast corner of the house, a second-story sleeping porch has been enclosed.

17. The Lowden House is located on a 1.5-acre lot on the east side of Long Pond Road in the northwest quadrant of the town. A driveway to the north leads to a contributing garage (c. 1920s-40s). To the southeast is a contributing, frame, one-and-one-half-story, gable-roofed shed (c. 1902-1924). To the northeast is a contributing brick barn (c. 1902-1924) that was originally part of this property; it is now owned by #606 Long Pond Road. The house is surrounded by a large area of lawn with mature deciduous and coniferous trees and shrubs. A fruit orchard remains on the southern part of this property. Across the street to the west is Gary Beikirch Town Park. A 1980s housing tract is located to the east, while a row of c. 1960s-70s housing is situated to the north and south.

18. The Lowden House is an example of a late, 19th-century vernacular house that has been expanded in the Colonial Revival style in 1926. The house sits on a pargeted foundation and is clad with wood clapboards. This large, two-and-one-half-story, cross-gabled plan house was constructed in two sections. According the owner's description, the original part of the house is the rear (east) section, which is recessed behind the c. 1926 front addition. The original house was a 2-1/2-story, cross-gabled plan with wood clapboard siding. Fenestration is irregular with mostly 8/8, double-hung sash; there are also several multi-paned casement windows and an arched window on the south elevation. The south elevation features a window bay with cut-away corners on the first story.

The house was enlarged in c. 1926, when the front addition was constructed. This addition is a large, 2-1/2-story,

18. continued

cross-gable plan and is wider than the original house. The south gable section, with its tall brick chimney, extends out beyond the original south wall of the earlier house. The north gable section features a two-story, angled bay and a second tall, brick chimney.

The 1926 addition features similar details: gable-end returns, 8/8, double-hung sash, several multi-paned casement windows and wood clapboard siding. The front (west) gable features a band of four, double-hung windows with simple hood molding. Projecting out over the second story, the front gable is clad with wood shingles; the bottom band of shingles features decorative, saw-toothed edging. The south gable includes the tall brick chimney and two half-fan, multi-paned windows. A one-story, enclosed front entrance porch is located at the northwest corner of the house. Because their size, design and detailing is the same, it is possible the all of the windows on the house, both in the original and the 1926 sections, were modernized into their present size and multi-paned configurations during the 1926 renovation.

The interior of the house includes a large living room with fireplace, pocket doors with leaded glass, a library (part of original house) with a corner fireplace (fireplace has decorative, blue Delft-type tiles), dining room, pantry, breakfast room, front and back stairs, four bedrooms (originally there were 5). There are hardwood floors and tiger maple detailing. The cellar still retains its dirt floor.

This site also includes an early 20th-century, frame garage to the immediate north of the house. The garage retains its original hinged, double doors with multi-paned windows (a contemporary carport has been added onto the front of the garage).

To the southeast of the house is a gable-roofed, frame shed with horizontal, shiplap wood siding. This is the last surviving agricultural building on this site. However, next door and to the north at #606 Long Pond Road is a two-story, gable-roofed brick barn that was originally part of the Lowden property here at #616 Long Pond Road.

20. The Lowden House is architecturally significant as a distinctive example of an turn-of-the-century farmhouse that

20. continued

was later expanded in the Colonial Revival style popular from the 1890s to the 1930s. It is historically significant for its association with the agricultural heritage of Greece. It is also historically significant for its association with the Lowden family, early settlers in the town and involved with its development (Lowden Point Road, Lowden family cemetery).

This large, 2-1/2-story house is representative of the spacious, rambling plans familiar at the turn of the century, c. 1890s -1930s. It is most indicative of the designs used in the Colonial Revival style of architecture: broad, cross-gabled plan, large-scale detailing, tall exterior chimneys, multi-paned windows. It appears that the original house was constructed c. 1872-1902 (first appears on the 1902 map). Its north and south angled window bays are details familiar to that late 19th-century era. Because the window designs are consistent in both the original and 1926 sections of the house, it appears that the entire building was up-dated with similar detailing during the 1926 renovation/expansion. The present appearance of the house is more indicative of city or village architecture, than rural farmhouse design. This may reflect the economics and beginning suburbanization of that time period.

The 1872 county map shows this site as lot 27 with open land (no buildings are shown); the owner is listed as "S. Butts." This is apparently Simon Butts. He was born in Pennsylvania in 1822. He came to Rochester with his parents in 1824 and to the town of Greece in 1832. He married Elizabeth Lowden of Greece. To them were born two children, Flora and Emmett (he died young). Soon after Emmett's death, Elizabeth died. Later, Simon married Sarah Way of Greece. They were the parents of 6 children: Anna, Nellie, Martha, Sarah, Chesa and Georgia.

Nellie Butts, the second child of Simon and Sarah Butts, graduated from Brockport Normal School. She taught school for several years in Vermont. Upon her retirement, she turned to her hobby of writing. One of her works, "The Grecian Shore," is in the Historical Society. She also wrote poetry. She died August 8, 1946. Nellie Butts is shown as the owner of this property on the 1902 county map.

The 1902 county map shows this property as lot 27 and a parcel of 152.5 acres owned by Nellie Butts. A small building is located in the southwest corner of the site

20. continued

(probably the original farmhouse here). Nellie Butts apparently did not marry. However, her sister, Martha Butts married Frank Lowden. Formerly a school teacher, who taught at Frisbee Hill School, Martha Butts Lowden settled here on this property with her husband, Frank. They had two children: a son who died in infancy and Harris Lowden. Born in this house in 1902, Harris Lowden states that his father, Frank, built the original farmhouse.

The 1924 county maps shows this property as a 61-acre parcel owned by Frank Lowden. The house is shown with a square footprint. Three small frame outbuildings are located to the southeast of the house; a small frame residence is located south of the house, near the property line. To the north is an adjacent 38-acre parcel of land also owned by Frank Lowden. Frank Lowden married Martha Matilda Butts. She was the sister of Sarah Butts (and apparently related to Nellie Butts, the owner of this property on the 1902 map).

Frank Lowden worked full-time as a farmer, cultivating his property of about 100 acres. The 1930 directory lists "Frank Lowden, farmer" on Long Pond Road; the house, however, has no assigned street number.

Frank and Matilda Lowden were the parents of Harris H. Lowden, who was born in this house on November 25, 1902. Harris Lowden married Marjorie Sydam on June 8, 1926. Born c. 1904, she was the daughter of Lefford and Mae (Littefaire) Sydam. Marjorie was from Charlotte; Harris and Marjorie met at Charlotte High School.

Upon his son's marriage, Frank Lowden invited the new couple to live with him in this house. It was then, that Frank Lowden had the large front section added onto the house, increasing the size of the living room (with its new fireplace and tall exterior south chimney) and adding additional bedrooms. The present library, with its corner fireplace, was part of the earlier house. Harris Lowden states that the architect for this new addition/renovation was Charles Vercolen (exact spelling not determined).

The Lowden family farmed the property. A large barn was located to the east of the house (burned down 30-40 years ago). Now part of the property at #606 Long Pond Rd., the brick barn originally belonged to the Lowdens. An earlier house at #606 Long Pond Rd. was once the tenant house for the



Town of Greece Historic Sites Survey  
Monroe County, New York  
616 Long Pond Road  
page 7

20. continued

Lowden farm. One of their principle crops at the farm was apples. The big freeze of 1934, however, killed off most of the apple trees (they discontinued farming apples). During the Depression or World War II, the second floor was turned into an apartment and rented out. Later, the house was re-converted into a 1-family residence.

The Lowdens have two sons: Lefford Franklin (born 6/16/1941), who still resides here and Harrison W. (born 7/9/1945), who lives in west Greece.

The Lowdens continued to farm after World War II. It was not, however, their main occupation. Harris Lowden worked at Kodak for 41 years (retired in January, 1968). Although he was employed at Kodak, he still did some farming here. He had several cows, a vegetable garden, and a small orchard (still extant along the south side of the property). Mr. Lowden's original tractor with metal wheels is stored in the back barn.

In February, 1995, Harris Lowden died here at the age of 92. He had resided in the family homestead since his birth in 1902. Mrs. Lowden and son, Lefford continue to live here.

21. See final report for bibliography; phone interviews with Harris Lowden, and Mr. & Mrs. Harrison W. Lowden, 1/1995.

